IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent

appln. of: Thomas Welsh et al.

Serial No.: 09/935,926

Filed: August 23, 2001

For: LINEAR COMPRESSION

LATCH

Confirmation No.: 1408

Examiner: Carlos Lugo

Art Unit: 3676

Att'y Docket: 195-01

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This amendment is being submitted in response to the Examiner's Action mailed November 23, 2005 setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response, the eighth official action in this case. This amendment is being filed on February 15, 2006, within the shortened statutory period.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this document.